United Nations A/58/879–S/2004/699

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 August 2004
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 30 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Government of Lebanon addressed to you regarding the proposed submission to the Security Council of a draft resolution on Syrian-Lebanese relations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated to members of the Security Council and issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-47254 (E) 300804 300804

Annex to the identical letters dated 30 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations has informed us that a United States-French draft resolution is currently being circulated calling for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, an end to intervention by the Syrian Arab Republic in the Lebanese presidential elections, and suspension of support by the Syrian Arab Republic for terrorist organizations in Lebanon.

May we point out that proceeding with such a draft resolution would set a dangerous precedent, in violation of international law and norms, for the following reasons:

First, the submission of this draft resolution coincides with the forthcoming presidential elections in Lebanon. The timing of the submission could adversely affect the electoral process and the Security Council would subsequently be seen as a tool of intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Second, the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon is linked to the Taif Treaty and other bilateral treaties between the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The implementation of this Treaty is entrusted to the appropriate legitimate institutions in each country. No external entities are entitled to intervene in the details of the Treaty, or to impose amendments to its text. This situation, in our view, serves the common interests of the two countries, which alone must determine the extent, limits, necessity and development thereof.

Third, the claim that the Syrian Arab Republic is backing terrorist organizations in Lebanon defies the truth. The Syrian Arab Republic's role in Lebanon has been, and remains, one that supports and strengthens the official security institutions. It is contributing to the maintenance of security in Lebanon, as is clearly demonstrated by the stability prevailing in Lebanon, which can be confirmed internationally, except for the daily Israeli violations of Lebanon's airspace and borders.

Fourth, the attempt by some countries to intervene in Lebanese internal affairs under the pretext of respect for the Constitution on the eve of the presidential elections is a cover for political intentions of no relevance to such claims. Such intentions are aimed at creating an atmosphere of instability that would only expose the country to grave dangers.